



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **RIO RICO WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING CHILDREN INTO THE U.S.**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Monica Talamante, 23, of Rio Rico, Ariz., was sentenced here today by U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata to 15 months in federal prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Talamante pleaded guilty on October 18, 2007, to conspiring to transport illegal aliens.

On July 24, 2007, Talamante presented herself for admission into the U.S. at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry. She was accompanied by two male children, ages 9 and 5, who she claimed were her sons. Talamante claimed that both she and the children were U.S. citizens. Further investigation revealed that both children were Mexican citizens and that Talamante, a U.S. citizen, was to receive \$600 to smuggle the children into the U.S. According to the criminal complaint, Talamante stated that she had been approached by a friend while shopping in Nogales regarding bringing the children into the U.S.

The investigation was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Douglas office. The prosecution was handled by Cynthia R. Wood, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-1491  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-002(Talamante)

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